Year 11 Transition Pack: English Literature

The English Literature course covers three specific areas, with two set texts for each.

- Component 1: Drama - Tragedy
  Texts: *Othello*, William Shakespeare; *The Duchess of Malfi,* John Webster

- Component 2: Prose – Women and Society
  Texts: *Tess of the D'Ubervilles,* Thomas Hardy; *A Thousand Splendid Suns,* Khaled Hosseini

- Component 3: Poetry
  Texts: Two anthologies, the first a set of post-2000 texts and the second a set pre or post 1900 texts.

Finally, there is a Non-Examination Assessment where you select two texts, different from those studied, to compare the links between them, which could be by theme, movement, author or period.

For your transition tasks, we would like you to start to engage with some of the texts that you will be studying on the course. This will provide you with excellent preparation for the course.

In addition, as always when studying English, reading is hugely important and we always encourage wider reading above and beyond the set texts. We have provided a suggested reading list that we would like you to consider choosing one or two to explore. These texts will broaden your knowledge and could be a very good choice for your NEA.

Component 1 - Drama tasks:

1. Research and produce a document/knowledge organiser on Jacobean Revenge Tragedy.
   Within your work, as a minimum, you should look to find out how it became established, the conventions of the genre, and texts that fall within the genre.

2. Explore the plot of *Othello*. This can be done in a number of ways. There are plenty of excellent summaries you will be able to find as well as film versions and performances of it as a stage production.
   Produce a suitable document that will help you remember and engage with the plot.

3. Explore the plot of *The Duchess of Malfi.* Again, there are a number of ways to explore this, by reading through plot summaries or finding performances of it as a stage production.
   Produce a suitable document that will help you remember and engage with the plot.

4. Based on your research into the plots, write a 500 word essay comparing the two plays. Consider the similarities and differences, particularly how they could be considered Jacobean Revenge Tragedy.

Component 2 - Prose Tasks:

1. Research and create a timeline of the key events that take place within Afghanistan from 1950 onwards to 2003. To help with this there are a number of excellent documentaries available and the film Charlie Wilson's War is based on real events.

2. Research the life and writing of Thomas Hardy. Possibly consider reading some of his wider writing over and above *Tess of the D'Ubervilles,* both his novels and his poetry.

3. Explore the plot of *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. This can be done in a number of ways. There are plenty of excellent summaries you will be able to find or you could read the book itself.
   Produce a suitable document that will help you remember and engage with the plot.

4. Explore the plot of *Tess of the D'Ubervilles*. This can be done in a number of ways. There are plenty of excellent summaries you will be able to find as well as film versions or you could read the book itself.
   Produce a suitable document that will help you remember and engage with the plot.

5. Based on your research into the plots, write a 500 word essay comparing the two texts. Consider the similarities and differences, particularly considering the treatment of women.

Suggested Reading List: It is not essential that you read these texts. However, they have been selected as they would support your study, developing your understanding of themes and authors. In addition, they are classics and fantastic stories to read.

Firstly, two of William Shakespeare's plays. (The RSC website provides some excellent support to help engage with these texts.)

- Hamlet
- King Lear

Secondly, six classic novels that you will never forget.

- *The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini*
- *Far from the Madding Crowd,* Thomas Hardy
- *Jude the Obscure,* Thomas Hardy
- *Atonement,* Ian McEwan
- *Frankenstein,* Mary Shelley
- *The Handmaid's Tale,* Margaret Atwood